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Amphibians and Reptiles

Carrizo Plain Natural Area

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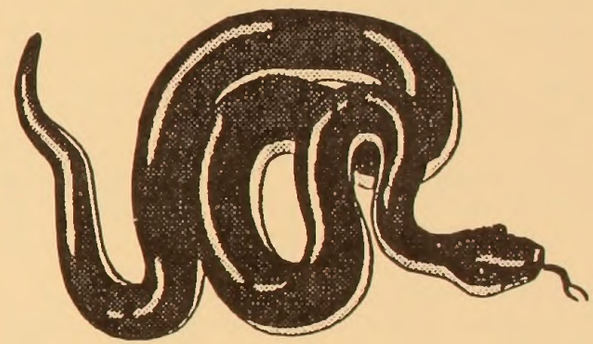

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Amphibians and Reptiles of the Carrizo Plain Natural Area

This checklist includes 24 species which currently occur within the Carrizo Plain Natural Area. Also included are two species (indicated with a "?") which may occur in the Carrizo Plain Natural Area, but have not yet been verified.

This checklist can best be used with a field guide to amphibians and reptiles that provides identification and natural history information. Species common and scientific names generally follow Laudenslayer and Grenfell (1983).

The Carrizo Plain Natural Area encompasses a variety of habitat types. The major habitat types include Juniper, Mixed Scrubland, Alkali Desert Scrub and Annual Grassland. The habitat classification used in this checklist is generally based on A Guide to Wildlife Habitats of California (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988) and Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California (Holland 1986).

Habitat Types of the Carrizo Plain Natural Area

Juniper (JUN) - Includes Juniper Oak Chsmontane Woodland (71430) and Cismontane Juniper Woodland and Scrub (72400).

A dense to open woodland characterized by scattered junipers, oaks, low shrubs, and non-native annual grasses. Higher elevations of the Temblor and Caliente Ranges.

Mixed Scrubland (MSC) - Includes Upper Sonoran Subshrub Scrub (39000).

A low drought tolerant shrubland dominated by ephedra, golden bush and non-native annual grasses. Elkhorn Plain and lower elevations of the Caliente Range.

Alkali Desert Scrub (ASC) - Includes Valley Sink Scrub (36210), Valley Saltbush Scrub (36220) and Interior Coast Range Saltbush Scrub (36320).

A low shrubland dominated by iodine bush or saltbush and non-native annual grasses. From the margins of Soda Lake to the foothills of the Temblor and Caliente Ranges.

Annual Grassland (AGS) - Includes Non-native Grassland (42200).

Non-native annual grassland dominated by bromes, filaree and schismus. Found mainly in the central portion of the Carrizo Plain Natural Area.

Amphibians

Salamanders - ORDER Caudata	Habitat	Occurrence
Lungless Salamanders - Family Plethodontidae		
Black-bellied Slender Salamander		
Batrachoseps nigriventris	JUN/MSC	C
Frogs and Toads - ORDER Salientia		
Spadefoot Toads - Family Pelobatidae		
Western Spadefoot Toad		
Scaphiopus hammondi	MSC/ASC/AGS	C
True Toads - Family Bufonidae		
Western Toad		
Bufo boreas	MSC/ASC/AGS	C
Treefrogs and Relatives - Family Hylidae		
Pacific Treefrog		
Pseudacris (Hyla) regilla	JUN/MSC/ASC/AGS	C

KEY TO CODES

JUN - Juniper
MSC - Mixed Scrubland
ASC - Alkali Desert Scrub
AGS - Annual Grassland

C - Common in appropriate habitat.
U - Uncommon even in appropriate habitat.
R - Rare, observed only a few times.
? - Possibly occurs.
☆ - State or federally listed species.

(71430) - Element Code from Holland 1986.

Literature Cited

Holland, R.F. 1986. Preliminary descriptions of terrestrial natural communities of California. State of California. The Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game. 156 pages.

Loudenslayer, W.F., Jr. and W.E. Grenfell, Jr. 1983. A list of amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals of California. Outdoor California 44:5-14.

Mayer, K.E., and W.F. Laudenslayer, Jr., editors. 1988. A guide to wildlife habitats of California. State of California, The Resources Agency, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. 166 pages.

Reptiles

Lizards & Snakes - ORDER Squamata	Habitat	Occurrence
Iguanids - Family Iguanidae		
Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard☆		
Gambelia sila	MSC/ASC/AGS	C
Western Fence Lizard		
Sceloporus occidentalis	JUN/MSC	C
Side-blotched Lizard		
Uta stansburiana	JUN/MSC/ASC/AGS	C
Coast Horned Lizard		
Phrynosoma coronatum	JUN/MSC/ASC/AGS	U
Night Lizards - Family Xantusidae		
Desert Night Lizard		
Xantusia vigilis	JUN/MSC/ASC	C
Skinks - Family Scincidae		
Gilbert's Skink		
Eumeces gilberti	JUN/MSC/AGS	U
Whiptails and Relatives - Family Teiidae		
Western Whiptail		
Cnemidophorus tigris	JUN/MSC/ASC/AGS	C
Alligator Lizards and Relatives - Family Anguidae		
Southern Alligator Lizard		
Elgaria multicarinata	MSC/AGS	U
California Legless Lizards - Family Anniellidae		
California Legless Lizard		
Anniella pulchra	JUN/MSC	U
Colubrids - Family Colubridae		
Racer		
Coluber constrictor	MSC/ASC/AGS	R
Coachwhip		
Masticophis flagellum	MSC/ASC/AGS	C
California Whipsnake		
Masticophis lateralis	JUN/MSC	C
Western Patch-nosed Snake		
Salvadora hexalepis	JUN/MSC/ASC/AGS	R
Glossy Snake		
Arizona elegans	MSC/ASC/AGS	U
Gopher Snake		
Pituophis melanoleucus	JUN/MSC/ASC/AGS	C
Common Kingsnake		
Lampropeltis getula	JUN/MSC/ASC/AGS	U
Long-nosed Snake		
Rhinocheilus lecontei	JUN/MSC/ASC/AGS	R
Common Garter Snake		
Thamnophis sirtalis	JUN/MSC/AGS	R
California Black-headed Snake		
Tantilla planiceps	JUN/MSC/AGS	?
Southwestern Black-headed Snake		
Tantilla hobartsmithi	ASC	?
Night Snake		
Hypsiglena torquata	JUN/MSC	C
Vipers - Family Viperidae		
Western Rattlesnake		
Crotalus viridis	JUN/MSC/ASC/AGS	C